



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

1210 Eastside St. S.E. P.O. Box 40926 Olympia, Washington 98504-0926 (360) 753-0127 yourcaa@caa.wa.gov
www.wa.gov/caaa

*Victoria Woodards,
Chair, Pierce County*

May 24, 2004

*Zelma Jackson,
Vice Chair,
Tri-Cities*

Governor Gary Locke
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

*Karen Boone,
Spokane County*

*Darryl Cook,
King County*

RE: Jayson Bush

*Darrell Fields,
Kitsap County*

Dear Governor Locke:

*Earl Ford,
Clark County*

The Commissioners and staff of the Commission on African Affairs are united in urging commutation of the 23-year sentence of Jayson Bush to the eight years he has already served.

*Malcolm Oliver,
Whatcom County*

*Edna Brooks-Pittman,
Yakima County*

*Bill Reed,
Snohomish County*

Jayson's case is compelling. As a teenager, at the age of 16, Jayson Bush responded to racist bullying in a manner that has forever changed his life. Jayson committed a crime, and has been punished. Without restating the case, Jayson's sentence of more than 23 years for first-degree assault is by any reasonable standard, disproportionate to both the severity of his crime and to the lack of permanent injury to the victim. The unopposed, unanimous vote by the Washington State Clemency and Pardons Board in favor of commuting Jayson's sentence acknowledges that Jayson has paid sufficiently for the crime he committed.

*Regina J. Jones, J.D.,
Executive Director*

We ask that you grant Jayson Bush a second chance while he is young enough to create a fresh start. We have been in contact with Jayson's counsel and with Jayson's family. We are persuaded that Jayson is remorseful for his crime, has a loving and responsible family waiting to guide and support him, and is not a danger to the community or to the victim. Jayson need not remain a statistic representing sentencing disparity in the Washington criminal justice system.

Sincerely,

Victoria Woodards
Chair

Regina J. Jones, J.D.
Executive Director

"Improving the quality of life of African Americans"

